



*If you pray day and night I will make right  
what is wrong. Luke 18:7*

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### **Prayer guidelines for the poor, needy and unemployed**

There is a general misunderstanding that poor and unemployed people are lazy, unintelligent and not willing to do something about their own situation. Although this may be sometimes be the case, the truth is that poverty and unemployment are very difficult and complex issues with no easy answers.

The solution for the upliftment of people lies in several areas.

1. Education
2. Foreign investment
3. Wise government policies
4. Restitution where necessary
5. Exposure and eradication of all forms of nepotism and corruption in especially the government and corporate businesses
6. Laws that benefit the free market system
7. Exposure and removal of deals and agreements that can harm the economy on the short and/or long term
8. Prayer for the government and businesses to work towards and maintain solid macro-economic structures
9. A spirit of generosity in people that have means to help and to give
10. A greater involvement and compassion from the church
11. The spiritual salvation of the poor

These are just a few things that need to change to bring a change in the plight of the poor, the powerless and the unemployed.

When we pray for the poor, we need to do it with compassion in our hearts. You cannot pray from a cold, clinical and judgmental heart. Unless we (that have abundance) identify with the plight of the poor, it will be very difficult to pray for them and to understand their helplessness. When we understand our own hopelessness and helplessness without God, we will understand the needs of the poor and then we will be able to pray for them.

Before we can refer the poor and needy to God as their source, we also need to live with the understanding that God is our only source. We need a Church that will understand and practice 2 Cor.9:6-9:

*“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”*

We need to understand that poverty will not be eradicated in this life (Deut.15:11; Matt.26:11). However, it does not mean that we must not do our utmost to feed them. James 2:15 makes it clear that faith without works is dead. One of the things the church needs to do is to focus on the needs of the poor and needy.

## **Prayer Guidelines**

1. First and foremost we need to pray for the constitution to be the last and final authority in every debate. Pray for a judiciary that will continue to respect the constitution, especially when it comes to issues like land reform, nationalization of mines, corporate investment, etc.
2. Pray for the issues concerning land in your nation. Pray for an understanding of food production, land distribution, social needs and resources.
3. Pray for solutions to be found between commercial farming and government legislature. Let us pray about land reform and for a deeper trust between farmers that have land and the government. Pray for the constitution to be upheld in this situation.
4. Pray for an effective education system. Proper training of teachers and lecturers of school, universities and colleges, and for teachers with integrity, high moral standards, and who wants to carry the burden and responsibility to raise a generation of responsible young people.
5. Pray that God will protect us against any form of revolution. History proves that the majority of revolutions lead to wide scale violence, destruction, bloodshed and labor unrest. It always results in more people being retrenched and increased poverty.
6. Pray for the church leaders to be a strong prophetic voice towards its own members and the government.
7. Several very clear examples can be given where real spiritual revivals in the church lead to end of poverty, layout unrest, riots, (I.e. The French Revolution that didn't spill over to England because of a spiritual revival in England). Ask God to be gracious to us and to send the Holy Spirit to renew and awaken our hearts in a spiritual revival amongst all peoples in your nation, such as not yet seen.

8. Pray for an end to corruption (that the work of syndicates will be exposed) and people to have a will to work. Many want to reap the benefits of the political systems, but do not want to contribute to the gaining of riches by hard work. Without a strong work ethic not much will change. Wealth is not created by distributing money, but by creating wealth and working for it. Redistribution of money will not solve the problem.
9. Pray for church members to be involved in large and small projects to help the poor and to create work. Many Christians in government positions, corporate and small businesses, and in key positions can help in legitimate ways to channel money to help the poor and unemployed. Pray that these people would speak out and help to give guidance and give wisdom on what to do to help the poor and needy.
10. As Christians we need to align our thinking with God's Word. We need to understand what the Bible says about the poor and needy and what God expects us to do about it (James 2:1-5; 5:1-6; 2 Cor.9:6-9; Deut.15:11; Matt.26:11).
11. Pray about laws and policies that keep systemic poverty intact. Many times poverty is caused by laws that exploits the poor and drives them back into hopelessness and humiliation.
12. There are large amounts of finances available to alleviate the pressures on the poor and needy, but corruption and greed, even amongst senior government officials, cost the nations hundreds of millions every year. Ask God to awaken the conscience of our national, provincial and local leaders. Pray for the exposing of all and any kinds of corruption, bribery and theft.
13. Pray for the removal of all animosity between the government and the labor force on the one side and the business sector on the other side. This is a major obstacle in creating jobs. In the agricultural sector alone, more than a million people can be employed if suspicion can be overcome and if laws can be implemented that will benefit all parties.
14. Government cannot create employment. Corporate associations, the business sector and small businesses create the work. Pray for government policies that will make it possible for the business sector to employ people. Pray for laws that will protect both the employers and the employees.